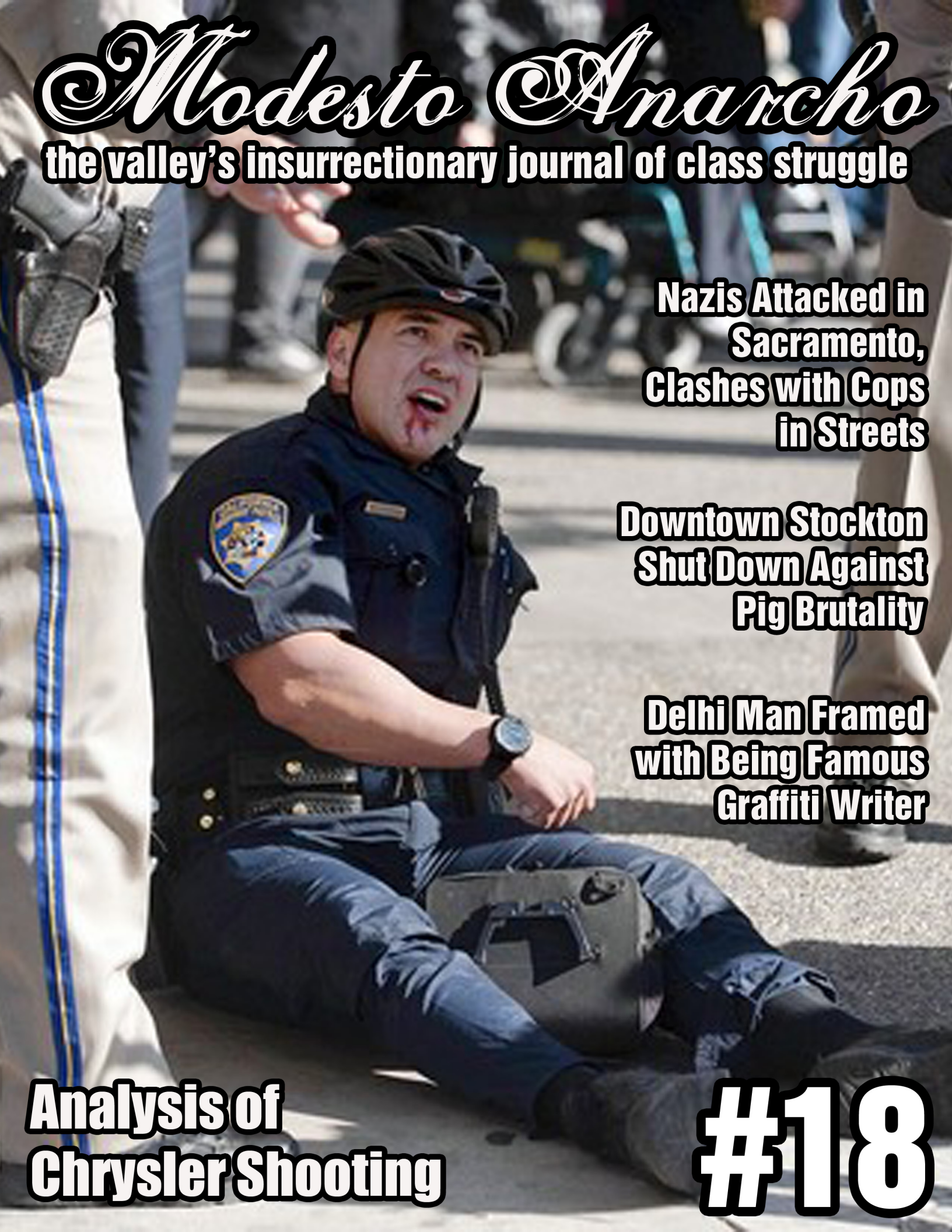
Modesto Anarcho

the valley's insurrectionary journal of class struggle



Nazis Attacked in Sacramento, Clashes with Cops in Streets

Downtown Stockton Shut Down Against Pig Brutality

Delhi Man Framed with Being Famous Graffiti Writer

Analysis of Chrysler Shooting

#18

What We Believe

We want a stateless and classless society. We want to live in a world of autonomous communities without any form of hierarchy. We desire a world where all people have agency and control over decision making and their lives. Where power is spread out horizontally to all, not concentrated at the top. A world in which all resources that people need to sustain themselves are owned and cared for in common and in harmony with the Earth. We want to see human labor and creativity put towards real needs and desires - not profit.

We are against all governments and capitalism. We are against all governments because they are based upon a monopoly of violence. Government is a system of domination that functions to preserve a society divided by class.

We are against capitalism, because it benefits those who own the means of existence, not those who must work to survive. This is a system of wage slavery — in which we trade our lives for wages and then buy back what we need to survive with those wages. Capitalism deforms and contorts all human relationships by turning everything into a commodity, including the Earth, living things, and our very lives. Capitalism cannot exist without government — it needs the government's violence to protect the privileged position of those who benefit from it.

We reject the reformism of the Left — we are revolutionaries. We do not desire a seat at the table of politics; we desire working class power. We believe in people self-organizing for the purpose of taking direct action. Class society can only be attacked and destroyed and we must organize ourselves to carry out this attack and to maximize our own power. We believe that class society can only be done away with through the collective mass revolutionary action of all working, poor, and oppressed people that creates an international human community through social revolution.

Modesto Anarcho is a semi-regular journal produced in Modesto, California. The project serves to create revolutionary, combative, working-class literature and propaganda, as well as to participate and engage in class and community-based struggles in our area. This publication is free to all. We also run a social center, Firehouse 51, in downtown Modesto.

We have no demands for this system; we seek only its destruction.

Introductions to this publication usually fall into the vein of a rousing call to arms - an impassioned explanation of the ideas behind what drives our desire to communicate our positions. But, it has been some time since we have put out a magazine and yet we have been very busy. So, with this issue we would like to take the time to give some shout-outs to those that are long over-due.

First, to all the prisoners that read our publication and write to us from behind the bars - we love you. Your letters keep us going and keep us excited about putting this thing out and keeping it flooding into prisons across California. We wish that we could constantly send issues in, but money is always tight and we often have a hard time responding to your letters in a timely manner. This however, in no way means that we do not appreciate your time and energy that goes into each and every letter that you write to us. Your feedback and support means a lot. We hope that the magazine can be a way in which conversations can be started; where prisoners can come together and talk about the realities that they face on the streets and inside the walls. We know that prison is an alienating place that breaks down a person and makes them feel less than human. We say crash the cars you ride with and come together in a struggle against the prison itself as prisoners in Georgia and Pelican Bay have done.

To everyone on the street that gives us feedback when we see you - keep it coming. We love everyone that supports us by putting our magazine in their store. We've had experiences in the past with the police intimidating people from carrying the magazine so we understand that supporting us comes with the possibility of police repression. To those that see us out and about and let us know that they like this project, our respects. Meeting people that enjoy the magazine and share it with friends makes us excited to keep doing this thing. Sometimes it feels like no one is listening, but when

we do get feedback either in person or on www.modestoanarcho.org we know that the amount of people engaging with our work is much greater than many of us realize.

To anyone that's ever written us that's wanted to come out to an event, a meeting, or wanted us to cover a story - we thank you. For anyone that's allowed us to come into their home and talk to them about their story and write about it, it means a lot. The trust that people place in us to tell their story is moving and we feel honored that many people have allowed us to discuss their struggles while at the same time adding our own analysis. Capitalism beyond being a system of exploitation and a way of turning everything in this world into a commodity that has an assigned value, is alienating. Meeting people in struggle is what drives us and creates friends and bonds.

To our comrades in the movement - to the global proletariat, we hope that we have been able to contribute to the growth of an international struggle that destroys global class society once and for all. We hope our enemies, from the feds, the local cops, and the elites who hold their leashes who read this, that every drive home from work ends with a car accident and every trip to a drive through includes crushed glass. Your comments letting us know you're watching and your attempts at harassment are frightening and stressful, we admit, but we will not stop. We draw inspiration from generations of working class people who have fought and still struggle against you. Our support comes not from the State, but from the communities that you repress, and that is a force that holds more destructive power than anything your government can imagine.

We are not the first, we will not be the last, but we are in the thick of it. Thanks for reading and thank you for keeping us going.

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Are you a prisoner in California? Do you know someone locked up in a prison, jail, or a detention facility? Would you like to get this and other magazines for free? Would you like copies of our magazine to hand out at work, school, or where you live? Simply get in contact with us by email or through our PO Box. Check our website for news, updates, and events.

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Struggles in the Valley

September 2011: On Saturday, September 10th, the Chicano Unity Festival on Crows Landing in Modesto called for an end to gang violence in Southside and all over California. Despite over 100 degree heat, people enjoyed speakers, live hip-hop, a bounce house, and graffiti walls. Former gang members of both northern and southern Chicano and Mexicano gangs gave moving speeches, addressing the need to stop gang violence from continuing in poor and working-class barrios. Many legendary speakers and elders who have been involved in revolutionary movements (past and present) for years graced the stage, including members of the Brown Berets, the Black Berets, and the Black Panther Party. Local organizers also discussed ongoing struggles such as the fight to shut down Covanta in Patterson and Grayson and the current push by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department to fill the county jail with captured migrant workers in order to get funds from the federal government. Members of the family of Ernest Duenez Jr. also spoke, talking about their struggle against the Manteca Police Department.

October 2011: On Saturday, October 22nd, over a hundred people from across the Central Valley participated in the 'Caravan of Resistance' against police brutality both inside local jails and on the streets. Rebels from Merced up to Stockton converged to participate in a string of actions in a total of three cities. In the morning, people first started rallying and marching around the Stockton Police Department HQ. SPD was one of the law enforcement agencies that shot and killed James Rivera in 2010, after a high speed chase that caused James to crash into a residential neighborhood. Over 50 people marched around the building, chanting, *"No Justice, No Peace!"* Next, the Caravan traveled to Manteca to rally outside of the Manteca Police Department, which in 2011, was responsible for killing Ernest Duenez Jr. who, like Rivera, was unarmed.

Next the group headed to Modesto, where they rallied outside of the Stanislaus County Men's Jail. Banners read: *"Day of Action Against Police Brutality," "Fire to the Prisons, Revolt on the Inside, Revolt on the Outside!," "Police, The Real Home Grown Terrorists," "We Didn't Cross the Borders, They Crossed Us!,"* and *"Puppets of the Rich, If You'z a Cop, If You'z a Snitch!"* Protesters also held signs reading, *"Revolt!," "Solidarity with the Pelican Bay Hunger Strike,"* and *"Fight for Rita Elias!"* Rita Elias was shot to death by an off-duty Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department officer in September of 2010. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department also runs the downtown jail, a facility in which 6 people have died within the last year and a half. While outside protesters chanted, *"Revolt on the Inside, Revolt on the Outside,"* and *"Cops, Pigs,*

Murderers," prisoners banged against the glass inside of the jail. Many people are also angry over the recent talk by head Sheriff Adam Christianson, who would like to rent out empty beds in the county jail to the federal government in order to house undocumented immigrants. Many carried signs against the border patrol and chanted, "Pueblo Si! Migra no!"

Marching towards West-Side Modesto, people took to the street, chanting, *"Who's Streets? Our Streets!"* A CHP officer followed behind the march and told the crowd to get out of the street and onto the sidewalk, but after it became apparent that no one would comply, he left the scene. While marching, passersby were handed fliers about the ongoing hunger strike in Pelican Bay Prison as well as a time-line of Police Repression in the Central Valley. Upon reaching the park, members of different families affected by police violence talked about their struggles, and several speakers discussed the need to organize against police, attacks on migrant workers, and the overall assault on poor, working, and oppressed people.

Protesters march against police and prisons in Modesto

The Caravan brought together over a hundred people: blacks, Chicanos, and working class whites joined with victims' families to protest murder and brutality at the hands of the police. We feel that this is important, as it shows that people throughout the Central Valley are coming together, not only to support each other emotionally, but to reinforce their common struggles. Furthermore, we feel that we gained confidence by taking over the streets, and holding it in spite of orders from the police to return to the sidewalk. Inside the jails or on the streets, we are escaping, into rebellion - and finding each other, in the process.

October 2011: On Thursday, October 27th, Occupy Fresno reached out from beyond their park occupation to aid in the defense of a homeless encampment nearby, as the city attempted to evict a large enclave of homeless people from their makeshift shelters. Over 100 people came out to protest the eviction of the camp, and while this helped to delay the eviction for several hours, ultimately proved unable to stop the bulldozers.

November 2011: On Tuesday, November 15th, hundreds of UC Davis (as well as CSU Sacramento) students flooded into Mrak Hall (which was occupied in 2009) and began on occupation which was evicted by police the next day. The actions came in the wake of continued fee hikes as well as attacks by UC Berkeley police on protesters attempting to occupy a public plaza on the campus. The blog, UC Davis Bicycle Barricade wrote:

"In an act of brazen political resistance, in which We meant us, UC Davis students stormed Mrak Hall—the nucleus of an administration that colludes in the looting of our university, earning more and growing larger on the backs of Us, as it smothers dissent with swift force of police violence. On Tuesday we fought back, emphatically and hoarsely shouting "Enough"! We did not demand anything, knowing that what we came for could be taken but not given, as we flooded into the space where the decisions concerning our collective present and future are made. These are decisions concerning our learning conditions, concerning how much more debt we will put up with, and even concerning the health and safety of our fellow students as we fight to change a system that has grown intolerable and untenable."

On November 17th, over 30+ officers evict-

ed the occupation during normal student use hours. The next day, students again gathered in the quad. From the same blog:

"Yesterday, after 90+ students and allies spent the night occupying Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus following Tuesday's huge walk-out/ rally/march in solidarity with Occupy Cal and the system-wide higher education strike to protest police brutality on campus, the UCD administration called in 30 riot cops—in the middle of the afternoon– to clear the occupation, and close the building in fear of further protest. This use of unnecessary force against UC student protesters, who were well within their right to be inside of a university building, during working hours, is additional proof of the militarization of university campuses..."

On orders from the campus administration, campus police came to clear the students from the quad and to take down their tents. Several students sat down in a line and locked arms as police used direct application of pepper spray to students' faces before hauling them away in plastic ties.

On November 20th, students surrounded a building where UC Davis Chancellor Katehi was giving a news conference on the police attack and disrupted it. This action forced the chancellor to slink back to her car a full three hours later, amidst many calls for her resignation. According to the Davis Enterprise:

"The protesters formed lines leading away from the building, leaving a pathway to permit the chancellor's exit, but the chancellor did not leave immediately following the conference."It didn't seem like we would be allowed to leave," said Mitchell Benson, assistant vice chancellor for university communications. "There was quite a loud, and I would hazard to say, hostile crowd outside both of the doors of the building and it didn't seem that she would be able to get out in a safe manner, so she stood put for a couple of hours."While protesters chanted outside for, among other things, her resignation, Katehi stayed inside."

November 2011: In Riverbank, James Dawes occupied his home of five years after illegally being locked out by his landlord, Brian Kelly, owner of the Denair Lumber Co. and several other rental properties. James has been battling cancer for years and must receive regular chemotherapy treatments. In recent months, his condition had severely worsened and he has thus fallen several months behind on rent. In October, James offered to begin making up for unpaid rent but Kelly refused and said that he'd rather board the place up. Kelly is trying to sell the vacant building that his apartment is attached to and standing in his way is James.

A series of lock-outs began in October of this year, with Kelly locking James out and James re-entering his home six times. Over the course of these lock-outs, James has been denied access to shelter, his bathroom and his medicine. During the most recent lock-out, Kelly took all of James' things: furniture, electronics, personal items, food, bedding, toiletries, medicine, etc. Local sheriffs who arrived on the scene after James had re-entered the home told Kelly that, in fact, they could not remove James because Kelly had evicted him illegally.

James is occupying his home to demand that the intimidation, illegal lockouts, and theft of his personal property by Brian Kelly stop at once. The day after James's most recent re-entry into his home, Kelly reportedly drove by and said, *"Don't fuck with me, you have no idea how much money I have."* On Friday, November 25th, members of Modesto Solidarity Network gathered at James' home, bringing supplies, making repairs, and sharing food. A banner was raised above his door that reads *"Stop Illegal Lockouts, Brian Kelly is*

a Slumlord." Flyers were also distributed in the neighborhood, detailing the situation and asking for solidarity. Soon after, a demonstration was held outside of Kelly's business.

December 2011: In downtown Modesto on December 6th, people demonstrated outside of the Stanislaus County courthouse to rally against former Stanislaus County Sheriff Kari Abbey, who shot and killed Rita Elias in September of 2010. In Merced, also on the same day, over 100 people expressed outrage outside of the police station at the most recent police murder of an unarmed man, Vang Thao.

January 2012: Members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) burned several cattle trucks near Fresno. Corporate agribusiness is one of the major contributors to air pollution and ground water contamination in the valley, as well as one of the worst abusers of animals raised for food and human workers who process them. A communique posted online read:

"at about 3:40 am on sunday, january 8th, 14 cattle trucks caught fire at the harris feeding company in coalinga, ca. containers of accelerant were placed beneath a row of 14 trucks with 4 digital timers used to light 4 of the containers and kerosene-soaked rope carrying the fire to the other 10 (a tactic adapted from Home Alone 2 [if you're going to try this make sure to use kerosene, gasoline dries too quickly]). we weren't sure how well this was going to work, so we waited until there was news reports before writing this.

we were extremely pleased to see that all 14 trucks 'were a total loss' with some being 'completely melted to the ground.' we're not delusional enough to believe that this action will shut down the harris feeding company, let alone have any effect on factory farming as a whole. but we maintain that this type of action still has worth, if not solely for the participant's peace of mind, then to show that despite guards, a constant worker presence, and razorwire fence, the enemy is still vulnerable.

finally, to all those who fantasize and romanticize about direct action yet remain on the fence: there is a lot of stuff that needs to be destroyed and we can't count on spontaneous combustion and careless welders to do all the work."

January 2012: In Stockton, protesters angry that the San Joaquin County D.A.'s office has still not released police reports and other findings in relation to James Rivera's killing by police and sheriffs, protested outside of the building. People attempted to enter the doors several times and were met by police who attempted to keep them from disrupting proceeding inside the D.A.'s office.

February 2012: In Modesto and Davis, people acted in solidarity with Occupy Oakland, which on January 28th attempted to takeover a vacant convention hall for use as a community center and hub for revolutionary action. Occupiers were met in the streets by Oakland Police, who used flash grenades, rubber bullets, and tear gas to stop the crowd of several thousand. Despite the police violence, many rebels fought the pigs bravely in the streets. Acting in solidarity, individuals in Modesto in early February attacked a landlord's office, and in Davis, people marched from the UC Davis campus to the office of the UC police.

The communiqué from the Modesto action, posted on anarchistnews.org reads: *"Rocks took out the windows of a Modesto Property Management company and landlord's office. This attack was carried out in solidarity with anyone who is facing a pending eviction or foreclosure. We also acted in solidarity with our comrades in Oakland, California who have faced massive repression at the hands of the Leftist City government and the local police department in actions coordinated in part by*

the Department of Homeland Security.

We see the struggle against those that exploit and those that serve the interests of the exploiters to be one in the same. Our hearts beat for all our comrades who have been, or who still are imprisoned within the Santa Rita jail and who have faced repression at the end of OPD's guns and sticks.

It should give you joy to know that the landlord targeted low-income families with rentals that were infested with black mold and we encourage all of those outside of Oakland inspired by the continuous fighting in the streets and the occupation to act in solidarity as well. This tear in normalcy hopefully will give those who owned the broken property just a taste of the insecurity and horror that happens to those they evict and leech from.

Despite the power of the surveillance state and the level of counter-insurgency of the pigs – we are still ungovernable. As the state seeks to crush the revolutionary pockets of revolt, the periphery expands with sabotage. We remain unafraid and ready to attack. Oakland rebels we are with you.-hooligans"

Occupy Oakland marches to join anti-nazi demonstrators in Sacramento

February 2012: In Sacramento, over 100 counter-demonstrators turned out to shut down a rally of white-nationalist and fascist groups under the banner of the 'South-Africa Project,' a group which condemns attacks against white-farmers since the fall of Apartheid by non-white people. Appearing at the Capitol in the morning, counter-demonstrators at first attempted to stop the group of mostly bald-headed white-men from marching onto the steps with banners and shields positioned between themselves and the racists.

Unable to push through the police and to physically stop the group from entering the capitol lawn, the counter-demonstrators then gathered themselves on the sidewalk. Chanting *"Follow your leader and kill yourself"* [a Hitler reference], *"South-African, Indigenous, Rise Up and Resist," "Cops and Klan Go Hand in Hand,"* and *"Nazis, Nazis, Come Out and Play, Today Might Be Your Very Last Day!,"* the counter-protesters shouted down the racists for over an hour. Several attempts at breaking onto the Capitol lawn were stopped by law enforcement. At one point, a young woman was arrested after she tore up some of the SAP's flyers, scattering it across the lawn. Police also removed black journalists who were taking pictures or Livestreaming the protest while they allowed white journalists free reign of the lawn.

At one point, members of Occupy Oakland, including many in black bloc (wearing all black to protect themselves from police surveillance), showed up, waving black flags and signs. *"The Revolution Has Come, Fuck the Klan!,"* they chanted. At one point, the group marched around the Capitol, engaging in a cat and mouse game with police, who tried to keep them on the sidewalk. Members of Occupy Oakland chanted, *"OPD has trained us Well, You Don't Stand a Chance in Hell!"* When the group returned to the spot of the original counter-demonstration, word began to pass through the crowd that the permit for the event was ending at 3pm, so people should stick around and try and run the filth off the grass as they left for their cars. While at the scene of the demonstration, Modesto Anarcho editors had the pleasure of talking to Sacramento residents who were out to bash the fascists.

One such young man identified himself as a S.H.A.R.P., or 'Skinhead Against Racial Prejudice,' and was part of a long lineage of 'traditional skinheads,' a solid working-class and cross-racial culture that originated in England and was influenced by 1st wave ska music from Jamaica. In the 1970's however, organized racist groups such as the National Front (NF) and later the British National Party (BNP) dove into the skinhead scene, recruiting a new generation towards the racist cause. But since that split, many traditional skinheads have stood up against the racist impostors, using violence and force when needed. The person we talked to described the Sacramento punk scene in the late 1990's and early 2000's as one in which a battle was waged against the racist skinheads, who were eventually pushed out of the underground music scene. One of the reasons that people like the one who was interviewed thought it was so important to confront the racist scum in the streets, was so that they could never become as powerful as they were then; harassing, attacking, and terrorizing all those that opposed their racist and fascist agenda or who had the wrong skin color or sexuality.

By the afternoon, the police began to encircle the crowd of fascists, who numbers never were larger than 35-40, and began taking them towards a car garage outside of the Capitol lawn. Seizing the opportunity, the crowd of counter-demonstrators rushed to meet them head on in the street and for about 15 minutes had the racists stuck on the Capitol lawn while police attempted to figure out what they were doing. After attempting to push the majority of the anti-fascists onto the opposite side of the street, the police then attempted to create a line between themselves and the fascists as they herded them into a parking garage where their vehicles were parked. At this moment, many within the crowd took the opportunity to let loose a barrage of projectiles at the racists. Responding to the attack on the other side of the line, police then began attacking the anti-fascists with clubs. At one point, an attempted arrest by police was stopped when the crowd pulled the cop off their intended victim. Police did make 3 arrests during the melee and two police were hospitalized. People also confronted the nazis while they were in their cars, beating on their windows and doors when possible.

We find that the confrontation of Monday was a success, but offers us many opportunities to learn and to sharpen our skills as street fighters and militants. First, one of our stated goals was to bring attention to the rally as one organized by a collection of white power, nationalist, and racist skinhead groups. We feel that this was accomplished. Across the US, hardly any other news even reported on the SAP, except in regards to the events in Sacramento, and this was only to mention that it was in the streets that people physically stood and fought racist and Neo-Nazi fascists. We see this as a victory; not because we think that the media owned by the upper class can 'tell our story,' but because we successfully destroyed the very story that the racists were hoping to create around their cause.

The events on Monday were also important because it brought many different militants from the bay area and the Central Valley together in a confrontational action that broke through the bullshit conversations of the 'Occupy Movement' around 'non-violence' and 'violence' and instead engendered a fighting community between comrades. On Monday, there was no politician we were trying to beg too. No message we were trying to get across to those in power. We were brought together with the sole goal of a direct purpose that could only be achieved through collective militant action against our enemies.

The Central Valley may be largely farmland but it is a desert. It is a place where nothing is supposed to happen except the constant extraction of profits and resources which feeds the rest of the world and make the elites rich and powerful. This

is why events like what transpired on February 27th are so important; they cut through the lie of social peace that is this society. It exposes the ongoing social conflict that lies beneath the surface of a seemingly calm and orderly class-divided reality. It reveals that there are people who are organizing and forming associations across geographic lines for the purpose of becoming a concrete material force against the State and capitalism.

April 2012: In Modesto, family members and friends of Anthony Nunez protested outside of the police station and marched on the Modesto Bee office as well as the Stanislaus County jail. Protesters chanted, *"No Justice, No Peace!,"* and *"Modesto Bee Prints Police Lies!"* Protesters handed out copies of the Modesto Anarcho article that appears in this issue, detailing how Modesto Police in West-Modesto have held and charged Anthony with a crime he had no involvement in, despite evidence, testing negative for firing a gun, and eye-witness testimony. Anthony continues to be held inside the Juvenile Hall facility on Blue-Gum Ave.

Protesters take to the streets in Stockton

April 2012: In Stockton, hundreds of angry demonstrators converged first outside of the San Joaquin District Attorney's office and then outside of the Stockton Police Department before marching to rally and hold a BBQ at Martin Luther King Jr. park in Stockton. The demonstration lasted for several hours with key intersections being blocked, forcing several downtown businesses to close their doors. Police, who attempted to move the group out of the street, drove police cars into the crowd only to have protesters swarm the cruisers, pounding and kicking them. Police report one vehicle was *"vandalized with permanent marker and dented."*

The crowd was made up of family members and supporters of James Rivera Jr., who was killed by police and sheriffs in 2010 and Luther Brown Jr. who was shot to death by police on April 6th during a traffic stop. Police claim that Brown grabbed a police officer's baton and began beating them with it, (go team go!), 'forcing' the officers to shoot him to death. Like James' and many other victim's cases, the media was used to portray Brown as a thug and gang member who needed to die and the police as conquering heroes happy to do the job. Family members dispute the police's version of events and point out that Brown was in fact unarmed. Joining Stockton friends and family of James and Luther were family members of Ernest Duenez Jr., killed by Manteca police in 2011, as well as a bus load of Occupy Oakland protestors. According to the Stockton Record, one person from Oakland was arrested when they refused to leave the street, sitting down with their fist raised.

Stockton Police were forced to make a huge showing to try and contain the demonstration, calling out officers across the city including many in full riot gear. Like the recent confrontation between anarchists and anti-racists with white-power activists in Sacramento (see full report in this issue), the disruption of the San Joaquin DA's office several months ago, and the Caravan of Resistance in Modesto last year, the demonstration in Stockton represents a very real turning point for social struggles in the Central Valley, of which the struggle against police power and violence is central.

Stockton is a powder keg and we are the fuse!

Agents of Repression

October 2011: In Modesto, police responded to a disturbance call on Sunrise Ave. after a 51 year-old man, Howard Shaw, reported that pieces of concrete and debris had been thrown into his yard. According to the Modesto Bee:

"Modesto police report that a man who was shot by an officer last week after claiming to have explosives and firearms was in possession of only a cane and flashlight. Modesto resident Howard Shaw, 51, remains in stable condition at a local hospital after being shot by officer Mark Starr after an hour long standoff with police. Shaw, who initially called 911 about a disturbance at his house, was shot when police thought he pointed a rifle at them. The object later turned out to be a walking cane."

December 2011: In Merced, police shot and killed Vang Thao. According to friends and family, they say officers shot Thao without any provocation. Police maintain that another man, an 18-year-old gang member named Kong Xiong, was pointing a weapon at the responding officers and Thao was caught in the officers' line of fire. Thao was struck by one bullet and pronounced dead at the scene.

According to residents in the apartment complex, police did not give warning before the attack nor did they announce to residents that they were approaching with guns drawn. As the Merced Sun-Star wrote:

"Tuesday, eyewitnesses said Xiong didn't have a gun and police officers didn't announce themselves before shooting through a fence into a private residence where five or six people were drinking beer and socializing.

Fred Camacho and his sister, Nancy, who was also present during the incident, said they had no idea the police were the ones shooting. They also said Xiong didn't have a gun.

Next-door neighbor Jacob Khaoone, 18, said he was cleaning his kitchen when the shots were fired. He said he didn't hear the police officers announce themselves. But after the shots were fired, he said he heard one of the officers say, "I can't believe I just shot someone right now."

"There wasn't no arguing or nothing," Khaoone said. "The cops, they're lying about the argument. They didn't even say Merced PD or nothing. My window right here, it was open. If they would have said 'Merced PD,' everyone there, they would have just stopped what they were doing. But

the cops didn't do that. And plus they didn't have their spotlight on."

December 2011: In Modesto on Monday, December 19, Judge Ricardo Cordova dismissed murder charges against former Stanislaus County Sheriff, Kari Abbey. Abbey was originally charged with the September 2010 murder of Rita Elias, a resident of West-Side Modesto and the mother of three children. Abbey and Elias became involved in an argument when Abbey attempted to evict Rita from her home, which Abbey's parents owned and managed. During the altercation, Abbey shot Elias several times, killing her.

Ernest Dueñez Jr.

According to the judge, the killing was in self-defense: witnesses testified that Elias stated that she was going to get a firearm to protect herself, and when she returned from her home with a realistic looking BB gun, Abbey shot her to death. After the killing, Abbey's home was raided by the FBI and numerous marijuana plants were found, as well as weapons, steroids, counterfeit cash, and items stolen from the Hayward Police Department. She is also charged with embezzlement of funds from the Sheriff's Department itself.

January 2012: Manteca Police, responsible for the shooting death of Ernest Duenez Jr. in 2011, have issued a restraining order against Gabriel Duenez towards officers John Moody and Armen Avakian. Gabriel Duenez is part of the Justice for Ernest group, which includes family, friends, and community members and has been involved in ongoing organizing and protesting against the Manteca Police Department over the shooting of Ernest last summer. The San Joaquin County DA has still yet to release to the public the video of the shooting, but supporters of Ernest maintain that he was unarmed when he was stopped by police, who opened fire on him as he exited his vehicle, tripping on his seat belt in the process. The Justice for Ernest group is a well organized association of loved ones and friends and this attack on Gabe is nothing more than an attempt to break the organization. It is also a sign that police are feeling the heat, and are growing weary of the constant community organizing and action taking place in Manteca. To this we can only say to those involved in Justice for Ernest: keep it up! Put the bacon on sizzle!

January 2012: As the State cracked down on occupy encampments, they also moved against homeless tent cities in the Central Valley. In Stockton, a homeless encampment in 'Mormon Slough' was raided and people's make-shift homes were destroyed despite the protests of homeless people and supporters from the neighborhood.

In Sacramento, police conducted a similar raid, forcing homeless people out of a camp with threats of arrest. This eviction mirrors a previous attack on a large homeless encampment that drew national attention in 2009, that was likewise broken up by the police. Also in Fresno, homeless people's camps were again targeted by the city and local police, as those sleeping on the streets, under overpasses, or in tent cities had their property taken and destroyed and their make-shift homes torn down.

February 2012: In Sacramento, a jury awarded the family of Joey Pinasco $2 million dollars after his slaying by CHP in Escalon in 2008. Joey was shot by CHP officers who claimed that Joey raced toward them, forcing them to fire on Joey's truck. However, after many months of Joey's family demanding that the truck be returned to them, they found that in fact many of the bullets were located in Joey's driver's door, contradicting the official police story that he was shot head on. No, he was murdered as his car was parked, which witnesses to the shooting corroborate. However, according to the Modesto Bee:

"...the jury did not find California Highway Patrol liable for civil rights violations. Coffman and Walling remain employed with the department. Walling has been promoted to sergeant."

While we are overjoyed for the Pinasco family that they feel they have been vindicated in the courts and also the police have been shown to be (at least partially) at fault, it is telling that still the CHP refuses to fire the police responsible for the killing and have even promoted one of the officers to sergeant. Trials, even where they find the police to be at fault, still do nothing to curb police violence or even simply remove the extremely bad cops from the force. Being that the systems of policing and imprisonment feed off of brutality and repression, it comes as no surprise that the most brutal officers are awarded and promoted.

February 2012: Eric Desouza, a friend of this publication, was wrapped by the pigs for throwing down against the filth in Sacramento. He'll be in jail for the next several months, so please take the time to send him a letter or postcard!

Eric Desouza
X-477943648n2205
Rio Cosummes
Correctional Center
12500 Bruceville Rd.
Elk Grove, CA 95757

April 2012: James Cooke, a black 57 year-old Stockton man, died while in police custody. Cooke was arrested after he was pulled over in his car and attempted to run from officers. Cooke was beaten repeatedly by police, and was put into a police car, and then taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Cooke was the third person in 2012 to be killed by Stockton police.

Putting the UC Davis Pepper Spray Attack Into Perspective

In the wake of occupations and demonstrations at UC Davis on November 17th, on orders from the campus administration, campus police came to clear the students from the quad and to take down their tents. Several students sat down in a line, locked arms, to which riot police responded by directly applying pepper spray to students' faces before hauling them away in plastic ties.

We must put the police attacks at UC Davis into perspective. Up until now, the media has portrayed the students as passive victims; simply kids who sat on the ground and waited to be sprayed in the face. We are supposed to feel pity for them while at the same time commending them for staying 'non-violent,' lauding them for staying passive in the face of brutality. If the students had fought back, as UC Berkeley protesters bravely did in September, or as those at Occupy Oakland have done, they would have been labeled by the media and much of the Left as "violent troublemakers," deserving of any violence dished out by the State. Furthermore, whenever people fight back against the police, the police always claim that the violence was started by protesters themselves and that their assaults are only in self-defense. This of course is simply a way for the police to justify their actions and keep larger bodies of people from coming out and expanding a struggle which understands the police to be a repressive institution which must be destroyed. Those that fight back against the police are courageous individuals who put their lives on the line for moments of dignity and bravery, boldly confronting the shock troops of the capitalist order.

We must also keep in mind that Davis is a city built around a university. It's a 'company town' and the school is the company. A large segment of the population either goes to school there, has a job there (whether as a custodian, professor, office worker, cafeteria worker, or tutor), or works for a business that exists because of the student population. Is it any wonder that we see the same naked brutality toward protesters at UC Davis that we do from police in any other department in any other city or town? Occupy a building or start a protest camp in the middle of their business (in this case the university), and you'll receive the full brunt of the State's violence.

This violence, in Davis, much less the Central Valley, is nothing new. In the Spring of 2008, DQ-University, an indigenous/Chicano school occupied by students since 2005, was the scene of a police raid by Yolo County Sheriffs who stormed the school with guns drawn, arresting as many as 20 students, supporters, and Native elders. DQ-University, which began as a takeover

of an Air Force base by Native and Chicano militants, received only slight attention from the press when compared to that of the student occupation movement only a few years later. Likewise, Davis and nearby Woodland has been the scene of brutal police murders in recent years. In May of 2008, Woodland police tasered to death Ricardo Abrahams, a mentally disturbed man who 'failed to obey police orders.' In 2009, an undercover gang unit in Woodland shot and killed Luis Gutierrez, who ran from police after leaving the DMV after undercover officers dressed as gang members started to chase him.

Later autopsy reports showed that Gutierrez died unarmed, shot in the back repeatedly trying to escape those who he thought to trying to attack him. Also in 2009, Davis police shot an Ethiopian woman who they were trying to evict from her apartment. The message is clear, when poor non-white people die, it isn't news and it's always justified. When largely passive and privileged students which are expected to leave college and enter the halls of business and commerce are attacked, the eyes of the world are focused. This is not to downplay the struggle of UC Davis students, only to put it's reality into a context of an ongoing social war between the State and it's combatants; this is to say, *Us.*

In a society where everyone is seen as a potential insurgent, where all organic and self-organized expressions of social life are seen as potentially insurrectionary and always criminal, the actions of the police will always be violent. Preachers of non-violence speak of proudly marching to their deaths and also for the 'glorious' defeat of their struggles. We have no intention of losing, and even less intention of allowing ourselves to be beaten, imprisoned, and brutalized by the dogs of the elites. We don't think that the students of UC Davis, or anyone, should have to either.

White Power Movement in Sacramento

One racist skinhead group that helped to organize a recent rally in Sacramento, the "Golden Gate Skinheads," has ties to other racist skinhead gangs and is also lead by Mike Myers (pictured below). In 2005, the Golden Gate Skinheads, along with the American Front and other racists, held a protest in Placerville against gay rights which brought out over 75 white power activists.

White power groups have a deep history in the Sacramento area. Skinhead groups like the American Front call the area home, and hold "cultural" events and music festivals with white supremacists politics. In 1999, when these groups were organizing more openly, three synagogues in the Sacramento area were attacked by arson, with white power flyers left behind at the scene. One band which frequents these festivals is Stormtroop 16, a Sacramento-based white power band. One of their members can be seen in a video from 2006 supporting the (now-defunct) Save Our State organization at a rally in Modesto. In the video, he clearly identifies himself as a Neo-Nazi, is wearing a t-shirt advertising white power bands, and has a tattoo of the American Front symbol.

Another group that calls Sacramento home is the National Alliance, which publishes and distributes The Turner Diaries, which (in part) inspired Timothy McVeigh to attack the Oklahoma Federal Building in 1995. Upon visiting the National Alliance website, one can see that the group takes a more conservative approach than their skinhead compatriots, publishing books and magazines, broadcasting a radio program, and doing public outreach at local gun shows.

Organized racist groups are a real threat in the Central Valley and need to be met in the streets complete resistance.

Mike Meyers, Member of Golden State Skinheads

MPD Terrorizes West-Side Family In Wake of Shooting

On March 5th, a drive-by shooting occurred near John Thurman Field in West Modesto. According to the Modesto Police, a uniformed officer in a car witnessed the shooting occur in which a house was fired upon, though no one was injured. According to the police, the suspects ran from the car and into a residential neighborhood, after which police searched the car and found a weapon. At this point, Ceres Police, SWAT, and Stanislaus County Sheriffs had joined the search, giving chase while the suspects ran through the backyards of the neighborhood.

It is at this point in the story that police and witness testimony, as interviewed by Modesto Anarcho, diverges completely. According to the police, pursuit of the person they believed to be the shooter led them to a home on the 900 block of Rouse Avenue, where they arrested a young man, Anthony Nunez. The police claim that Anthony was the driver of the car responsible for the drive-by shooting. Cops claim that upon their arrival, Greg Woody, boyfriend of Anthony's mother, Kenni Nunez, was found 'cleaning finger prints off of the firearm.' Greg was arrested on parole violations and felony possession of a firearm, while Anthony was arrested on felony discharge of a weapon and a host of other crimes.

"An open-and-shut case," the police tell us. "Police departments converged in a low-income neighborhood, torn apart by gang violence, where the police are the only thing protecting the good citizens from sadistic violence." The media echoes the official story. White, middle-class citizens reading the news see photos of young Mexican-American youth arrested and think the streets are much safer. After all, the police wouldn't lie and the newspaper never fibs, right?

According to the family and neighbors of Anthony and Greg, what actually happened on March 5th, a day that has completely changed this family's lives forever, was very different, and much more terrifying, than the story put out by the police and the Modesto Bee.

Greg and Anthony's family, who pride themselves on getting their kids to and from school every day and on their work in the contracting business, were relaxing on a Monday evening when they heard gun shots. They became aware of the gravity of the situation as they saw two young men running through their yard. The family's neighbor then alerted them that one of the runners had dropped a hand gun in their yard. Greg, a contractor who was only a few days away from getting off parole on a DUI charge, didn't want a gun in his

yard nor want it around children and went to go get the handgun while his girlfriend, Kenni Nunez and her two boys, Anthony and Thomas, waved the police over to the house, thinking that they could hand them the gun and get on with their evening. When police arrived at the scene, however, the family's dogs began barking, one even jumping over the fence to meet the cops head on. Police fired on the dog with rubber bullets while Kenni attempted to get the dog back inside the gate without herself being shot.

Once Kenny had taken the dogs inside the house, police entered the yard in droves and began detaining those on the property. Greg was arrested after he attempted to give the police the firearm that was left in his yard. Police would later claim he was trying to *"wipe off the fingerprints"* on the gun. Police proceeded to detain the entire family outside including Kenni, her daughter, and her two twin sons, one of which was Anthony. According to Kenni in her interviews, Anthony stood up to the cops and told them how he felt about the situation and what the police were doing to his family, resulting in the police setting upon him with a barrage of questions. Anthony remained clear in his resolve that he was not involved in the shooting and had not left his house during the evening. The police response to this was a flurry of insults directed at Anthony, calling him a *"pussy"* among other things.

Anthony was arrested by police and put into a cop car. Kenni requested to speak with him before he was taken anywhere or interviewed by police. She remained adamant with the police that all her children were inside the house with her, had not left the house since they returned home from school, and that they could not have been involved with the shooting. Police insisted that Anthony was the driver of the car involved in the drive-by shooting and told Kenni they were going to take him in for questioning. It should be noted that neither of Kenni's twins knew how to drive, or even had drivers' licenses (they are both are 17). Though the police ransacked the house looking for evidence connecting the family to the shooting, they found nothing.

Although police promised Kenni they would not question or leave with Anthony before talking to her, they shut the car doors and drove off, taking Anthony to the Modesto Police Station, where he ultimately arrived at Juvenile Hall.

Anthony's family was then left to survey the destruction caused by the police; two of their dogs had been shot with rubber bullets, several of the windows of their home had been broken out, and they also found several burn marks on the ground which they believe to be the remnants of flash or smoke grenades.

At the time of publication, Greg has been released, but Anthony remains in custody facing multiple felony charges, even though police have tested (swabbed) him for gunpowder residue with negative results. After the arrest, Kenni and a neighbor, both witnesses to the preceding events, visited the Modesto Police station in an attempt to re-affirm that the men they saw running did not include, nor look anything like, Anthony. Despite eye-witnesses testimony, the police are sure that they have their man.

This case makes several things very clear. First and foremost, the role of the police in our communities is not to keep us safe, nor are they here to protect us from a dangerous 'criminal' element. When members of Greg and Anthony's family attempted to flag down police, they did this with the belief that they could peacefully and without incident, aid the police in performing their jobs. Instead, they were arrested and treated, as if they were the shooters themselves. To the police, everyone on the street is either a suspect or victim. This is the same mentality that we see in the repeated killings

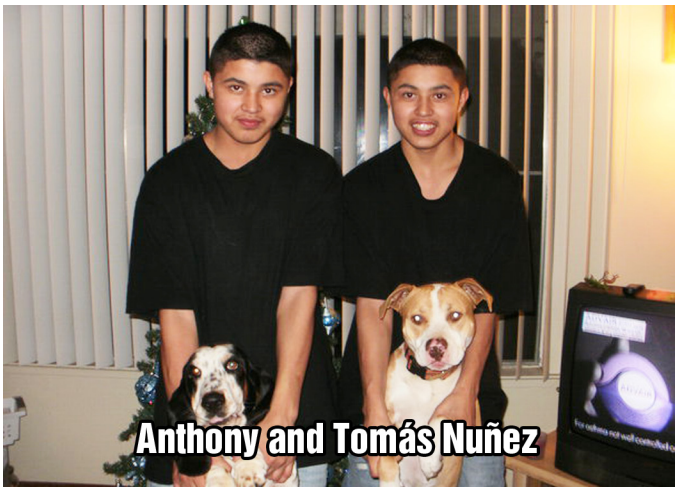
and massacres of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq by US soldiers, and this should come as no surprise; the police as foreign to our communities as invading soldiers.

Realizing they allowed the real shooters to escape, police needed to save face and had to take someone in, anyone. The goal of the police that day, and in all interactions with the public, is not to make people safe, or 'bring to justice' those that hurt or transgress against others. Rather, it is simply to keep their jobs, which is to preserve the present social order using any means necessary, no matter how repressive.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that situations like these are exactly the kinds in which police shoot and murder people in cold-blood. An unarmed Oscar Grant is shot and killed as he lays face down after a fight at a BART station breaks out in the East Bay. Alberto Sepulveda, age 11, is shot and killed in Modesto during a raid by police looking for drugs, while he lies on his stomach. Sammy Galvan is shot and killed in Modesto while cooking food at his mother's house after police respond to a domestic call and later claim he tried to attack them with a knife. Francisco Moran is shot and killed by Modesto Police in East Modesto after he "reaches for a knife," which turns out to be a spatula. Rita Elias is shot and killed by an off-duty Sheriff in West Modesto who is attempting to evict Rita to help out her landlord parents. It is not just the outright murder which is designed to terrify the people that the police suppress, but the very threat that at any moment police can, and do, kill anyone.

The Modesto Bee, like all mainstream media, reports on whatever the police tell them without doing any deeper investigation or more than cursory attempts to interview anyone involved. Of course, this style of "reporting" is nothing new. It wasn't until cell-phone video of the murder of Oscar Grant was released by the public that the media began reporting on a different perspective of the shooting. By reporting whatever the police feed them, newspapers keep a tight relationship with the police and stay on the good sides of the local elite. But it's not just police brutality and shootings that the media helps to gloss over, they also cover up resistance to the cops themselves. In December of 2010, people wearing masks of Francisco Moran and Rita Elias marched into an accreditation meeting at the Modesto station chanting "Cops, Pigs, Murderers," disrupting the proceedings. It wasn't until the story was written about in Modesto Anarcho that the Modesto Bee was forced to comment on it, even though reporters were there at the scene.

Incidents like what happened to the Nunez family are terrifying, but they also represent a very real chance for us to get organized and come together as neighbors, as people disgusted with police terror. We can start to see the police for what they are, what they represent, and begin to organize ourselves to solve our own problems. We can make our own media and share our own stories so we don't have to rely on those that work for the cops. Above all, we have to come together to support those that have been targeted by the police and get them out of jail and back into our arms.


Anthony and Tomás Nuñez

Have a Sticker? Go to Jail!

The Story of P.J.

Imagine relaxing in your apartment after work with your family to hear a knock at the door. Upon answering it, you learn that it's the local police department and they have a warrant to search your home. You sign the paper as they barge through the door and go straight to your room. They leave, only after taking your drawings, silkscreens, books, and photographing your stickers and signatures of friends who have passed through. Later in court, you learn that the police were given false information that you were a well known graffiti artist by a snitch that was arrested for vandalism. They use pictures of stickers of famous graffiti artists and tags of your friends to convict you of being someone you are not. You are now facing months and possibly more in jail.

This story isn't a hypothetical situation, it actually happened to a young Delhi man named Paul Lopez. Recently, Modesto Anarcho began corresponding with Paul, aka "PJ," who this Winter was found guilty of a felony and a misdemeanor count of vandalism, as well as violating his probation, for the crime most commonly referred to as graffiti. The crimes that Lopez is accused of committing took place sometime in late 2009 to early 2010. Lopez is accused of spray painting "MUSKET," the handle of a prominent graffiti writer, across the wall of a Delhi Mexican restaurant. But while PJ is accused of these crimes by the police in the previously mentioned window of time, the Delhi Express reported that the restaurant was in-fact painted in July of 2009, almost half a year before PJ was accused of the graffiti. During his trial, Lopez was also accused by the DA's office of being yet another graffiti writer, RESON.

This is not the first time that PJ has been arrested for graffiti. Several years ago he was found by police out at night with art supplies and pled guilty to vandalism charges. Despite this incident, PJ remains a creative and talented artist. However, it was his background and previous arrest that was used in part by the courts to help portray PJ as the vandal in question.

Whenever we hear about cases of graffiti artists being locked up by the State and the victims of police harassment and raids on their homes, our hearts go out to them. We understand the war on graffiti and the largely poor and working class people who engage in it to be part of an effort by the state to attack rebellious behavior and enforce property relations. As we wrote in Modesto Anarcho #14: *"[G]raffiti…is a culture and an art form that comes from us. From the urban poor. The working class. The criminal element…despite every attempt to commercialize it, it stays illegal and autonomous*

from corporations and the rich. Graffiti does not ask for space. It takes space.

We live in environments policed by our enemies. Designed by upper class bosses, politicians, planners, and capitalists. We are bombarded with advertisements for everything from politics to skin cream. Graffiti is about rupture against this spectacle. It is about leaving something behind that we enjoy. It is about communication in a world that thrives on silence."

As the rapper Promoe sang, *"You claim they not political, but to me, the whole art form questions private property."* As PJ himself wrote, *"I can see how people [see] it [as]…an eyesore but I see rundown empty businesses and houses and old shacks more of an eyesore."*

However, PJ's case is much different than other graffiti writers that we have supported in the pages of Modesto Anarcho, because quite simply, Mr. Lopez was in no way connected to the vandalism that he is accused of committing. His recent trial presented a mountain of evidence that showed clearly that he was not responsible for the graffiti. Unlike the shameful arrested graffiti artist that gave up Lopez's name to the police in what we can assume was an attempt to get off on charges himself, Lopez refuses to cooperate with the State and will not give up anyone or name any names. It is this non-cooperation that angers the State most of all. If Lopez won't cough up someone else for the crime, then the police are all too happy to lay the blame at PJ's feet.

But to make a jury believe this, the DA has to sell an image of Lopez as someone that he is not: namely a criminal and a dangerous person. Just as we have seen the media and the courts do over and over again in cases where police murder those they come into contact with, the courts and the media are always used to assassinate a person's character.

As PJ stated, *"The DA made me look dangerous because they said I used the cover of dark to maliciously vandalize public property. They said graffiti writers are so disrespectful against society and the public. That is why they do this crime. I can't speak for everybody but that's not me."* Lopez also reports that his anti-government views as well as his interest in punk-rock and hip-hop were also used against him in court, helping to portray him against the jury's favor. Thus, the state uses someone's interests and beliefs, even tastes in music or clothing as a way of making them look not only guilty, but a threat to society, and worthy of punishment from the State. The State is the real monster; using its police and courts to destroy the lives of everyday people while the rich and powerful wreck havoc without consequence.

More telling is the actual 'evidence' that the state has compiled, which includes items from the raid conducted at PJ's home in Delhi and the words of snitch. From the raid, police gathered such 'evidence' as stickers and tags of artists in notebooks that belonged to PJ. One sticker image in particular stood out more than others, a sticker of "MU" in graffiti style. The sticker represented the moniker of "MUSKET," a well known graffiti artist in northern California and across the country. It is this sticker that police have used as evidence that PJ was responsible for writing "MUSKET" in Delhi. However, the sticker was not even handmade, such as those one sees across the world on postal stickers, it was mass-produced and printed from a machine; something that Lopez had gotten from mail-order. From the pictures of tags that police got from the raid, the DA went on to propose Lopez was the artist RESON, even though the style and lettering of RESON's is clearly different from that of Lopez's. Tags and graffiti stickers are found in many young people's rooms and homes; which should make the attack against PJ even scarier. If someone can be locked up with this flimsy evidence, what's to stop

them from doing it to the rest of us?

PJ's defense was able to bring forth two pieces of evidence that should have thrown out his case. First, they attempted to show in court the graffiti movie "WAR," which features US artists doing their art. In the movie is none other than MUSKET themselves, and it clearly shows a larger stocky male shape. PJ however, has a light build and has never been stocky. PJ's defense tried to argue that this clearly showed that PJ was not MUSKET, however the judge ruled that the video could not be substantiated and thus threw it out as possible evidence. Second, the defense brought to the stand the author of the book "Bay Area Graffiti," Steve Rotman, which chronicles artists in northern California, including MUSKET. On the stand the author clearly testified that they did not believe at all that Lopez was in fact MUSKET. Furthermore, he could not be. MUSKET pieces were popping up all over the bay area. How could Lopez be someone that keeps going out and doing their craft?

It's also important to realize the ways in which PJ made mistakes in his interactions with law enforcement. Namely, after the raid when he was taken in for questioning, Lopez talked with police for several hours before his lawyer arrived. Talking to the police without your lawyer present is never a good idea. It doesn't matter how good you think your story is, everything that you tell a cop can be used against you. If you find yourself in a similar situation, just keep your mouth shut and say only that you are going to wait to talk to your lawyer before making any sort of statements.

The charges against Paul Lopez should be dropped at once. He should return to his family and his child. We see this assault on PJ to be an attempt by a police department to make a name for themselves by putting a face to a well known graffiti artist. Furthermore, this case shows clearly how the police use intimidation and threats of jail time to turn possible comrades against each other. A population divided against itself is one that does not revolt against those that oppress and control it. We admire PJ's commitment to non-cooperation with the State and we encourage everyone to share his story and stand in solidarity with him as he fights these bogus charges.

We must also realize that very real power that the police, the courts, and the State has over our lives. They can not only turn friends and family against each other under threats of jail, but they also can raid homes and fabricate evidence. They can use the courts to portray us as violent and dangerous people who need to be removed from the community. We must recognize these systems of power and domination to be what they are: products of a colonial system of power and privilege that divides society into classes and the working and poor against each other by race.

Many that read this probably aren't graffiti artists, but everyone that reads this lives under the threat of having their homes raided by police and facing trumped up charges based on their political ideas, their associations, and a multitude of other factors. Recently, with the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act, the power of the State to detain people without trial has been reaffirmed. Migrants also face similar attacks, as those in this

country without papers (or believed to be without) can be taken off the streets and placed into detention facilities until they are deported. Millions more Americans are swallowed alive by the prison system, caught in an endless cycle of imprisonment, probation, and parole. Tens of millions more live in an open air prison, where the authorities are given extreme power of force, surveillance, and intelligence gathering as the State gathers more and more control over our daily lives. This all is designed to have one effect: to police the potential threats to capital and the State and secure the power structure against those that could find each other and attack it.

We must show solidarity with PJ if only because any one of us could be in his situation, just as we would if he was "guilty" of the crime of changing the color of a surface. It means that we must get organized and resist the State and the police which operate these apparatuses of power and control. Solidarity, if it means anything, means attack.

We will leave you with a letter from Lopez himself, where he details his case:

"I was just recently accused of being a famous graffiti writer known as MUSKET/MUERTE/MU. If you are aware of graffiti you might know who [the person] is. As of last year, some kid was arrested here in Delhi. The cops said he said I was Musket and had a cousin named J. Cortez, which I don't. That I wrote 'RESON.'

Soon after, Lt. Luke Hukill of the Merced County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant to my apartment in Turlock and found multiple mass produced graffiti stickers [including] some 'MU' stickers as well as others bearing the likeness of other graffiti writers. That was enough for them.

I'm not MUSKET. I fought this case all year in court. I had evidence as well as scenes from the graffiti movie, "War 4," which contains footage of Musket that shows (his body type is much bigger) that it was clearly not me, even though the face was blurred. But Judge Kirahara of the Merced County Superior Courts did not allow this evidence because it could not be 'authenticated.' The DA, Rita Patel, threw a fit and the evidence was unable to be used.

The kid [who snitched to the cops] wasn't even in court to testify, even though he said I was MUSKET. A friend of mine even gave me a newspaper that had the same graffiti I was accused of doing 8 months before the police wrote in their report that said I had vandalized La Rosita in Delhi between December 17th 2009 and January 20th 2010. The newspaper said the graffiti was there since before July of 2009. That made the cops' evidence look real bad. But, as of October 6th, after the jury was guaranteed to only be there till the fifth of the week prior, and the judge said if any longer it will be a mistrial, but the jury had to stay the extra day and only deliberated for an hour. When my public defender told me I could have got an infraction while they deliberated but no. The jury found me guilty of being two different taggers. I even had Steve Rotman, the guy who wrote the bay area graffiti book that contains some of Musket's work [testify in court on my behalf].

I had no chance from the start. The detective involved in the case Lt. Hukill and others, confirmed that they got my name from a database available only to police. It is used to share cases and pretty much frame people. This is just another battle on the war against the public.

These cops are not here to protect and serve, they just want to move up in the corporate law ladder and they don't care whose lives they destroy on their way up."

Meet Me in the Wal-Mart

Looting the Pampers

The scene could be anywhere, but the place is right here in Modesto. A prostitute is assaulted and left to die on the train tracks along 9th street, an act so gruesome that coroners have to check dental records in order to ID the victim. Stanislaus County Sheriffs address the crime only by stating in the Modesto Bee that hopefully this is a "warning to other women." Only several months prior, Modesto Police and Stanislaus Sheriffs decided to turn a slow night into an opportunity to fill quotas and go busting sex-workers, with the Modesto Bee gleefully running the names of the accused in the next day's paper. Further down on 9th Street where many sex-workers go to apply their trade, city health officials take down and destroy self-constructed free condom dispensers.

In March, a Modesto Police officer is charged with sexual assault after a woman comes forward to charge, that while in uniform, he handcuffed and forced her to perform a sex act at her workplace. In West-Modesto, an off-duty Sheriff evicts tenants for their landlord parents, including one mother who refuses and is shot dead after an altercation. At Modesto Junior College, in an effort to streamline the college from an educational to a business model, there are massive cuts to the school, starting at the day-care center, used primarily by young mothers. In Stockton, police raid a family home looking for a young boy that has escaped from juvenile hall, telling his mother tomorrow she, "…will be going to a funeral." The next day the police shoot and kill her son using automatic weapons. In Modesto, a Stanislaus Sheriff is only given a year in jail and does not have to register as a sex-offender after he is found guilty of molesting and raping his step-daughter for years. In South-Side Modesto, women working to burn DVDs to sell have their homes raided; many carted off by immigration police, some even have children taken from them. On McHenry Ave., shots are fired at the local queer bar, the Tiki, after which the assailants drive away yelling homophobic slurs. Near Stockton, a 17 year-old pregnant woman working in the fields collapses and dies from heat exhaustion, at the time of her death having a core-body temperature of 108 degrees; the bosses on duty get off with small fines and probation. Across the Valley and around the world, women struggle to make ends meet, feed and take care of their children, hustle to find work, receive benefits, avoid eviction and foreclosure, and keep their jobs.

Violence, abuse, terror, intimidation, and assault against women in this society is the outcome of a way of life that is organized along patriarchal lines. Patriarchy is a form of social organization in which women are subjugated by men and have

control over their lives taken from them. This very real violence is not only a strategy of all governments in an attempt to suppress women and the communities that they are a part of, but also aids in the constant recreation and continuation of a class of people who are born to work and repressed and terrorized in an effort to halt potential insurgency.

Patriarchy is social war, but it is one that is waged consciously by all governments against their own populations. It is no surprise that the rise of patriarchy was a result of the imposition of government structures, Christianity, and the destruction of indigenous and non-capitalist relationships with the natural world. The ability of women to create life had to be colonized and controlled just as with those who work and give power to, a ruling class. As the working-class must be controlled and kept working, so too must women be kept reproducing the workers who will in turn march off to work, school, and to war.

Women fighting in an anarchist militia during the Spanish Revolution

But attacks on women, whether in the Central Valley or Iran, go beyond just assaults by police, raids against migrant workers, attacks on sex-workers, and the slashing of services to poor and working women; patriarchy is built into our daily reality. Many of us have grown up in places where women are routinely abused and mistreated, sexually assaulted and raped, subjugated, and controlled by men. Many women have internalized this abuse and have come to hate themselves in the process. Many of the men who do the abusing were abused themselves; perhaps by their parents or in foster care, maybe by doctors, priests, police, or others in authority. Some likewise have no real control over their lives – they live in poverty or work shit jobs, are fucked around with at the social services office or by the boss or the teacher or the pig on the street. When they get home though, they are given the reigns and told that they are the boss, and that the women and the children are their subjects to govern. There is an old saying that "shit rolls downhill," and sadly, it often lands on women and children. Many men, without wanting to, help recreate and strengthen the same situations which abused, raped, and tortured them as children, doing just that through their daily actions. Our daily relationships must be changed so that they negate and ultimately destroy this society that emmiserates and abuses us, not aid its continuance.

Through these cycles of abuse, many women find themselves afraid to speak their minds in front of men and are afraid to resist attempts to control their desires, thoughts, and bodies. Just as the State has attempted to train and condition all of us through police, prisons, borders, surveillance, and the courts, so too have women been conditioned into a way of life within the working-class and the poor that requires them to behave in ways that run counter to their desires. The scars left by the physical and psychological trauma of generations of women dealing with rape, abuse, molestation, and verbal attacks creates billions of people that are afraid to fight back – whether against their abusers, at work, or against the government.
Our struggle to destroy patriarchy is one in the same as our struggle to destroy class society; a revolution against capitalism and the governments which protect and manage it. An insurrection against the forces of control and domination must likewise be one against the patriarchal order and the violence and domination over women which

stems from it.

As revolutionaries, and as everyday people on the street, at work, in school, and in our neighborhoods, we must push for relationships and associations free of patriarchy. We must confront assaults and abuses against women. Likewise, we must do the same for children, queer and trans people, immigrants, and people of color. Women (and all others that have been abused) must also find ways of dealing with the very real psychological and physical attacks they have lived through and dealt with. This means nothing less than an end to the world of patriarchy and the meeting of our direct needs. It means the violent end of cycles and patterns of abuse and the immediate and direct destruction of the physical systems of domination which assault and dehumanize us.

Such actions could look like the collective occupation and opening of community day-care centers throughout our cities, free of cost to everyone, the immediate and complete taking over of farm land for the purpose of feeding and growing food freely and collectively, putting an end to waged work in the fields and instead working the land in common, dealing with rapists and abusers ourselves in the communities and neighborhoods they prowl, not waiting in the false expectation that the State's police will fix things for us, the reclaiming of products that we as workers create from the stores themselves, tearing up the streets to use as we please, driving the police from our streets, and the destroying the prisons, as we regain control over our lives, taking it from State's hands. All of this means destroying the lines of gender which separate and divide us and embracing our common humanity.

Joe Gibbs Threatens Legal Action Against *Modesto Anarcho*, Sucks At Life!

Joe Gibbs (pictured below), former grant writer for SCAP, who we wrote about in the last issue of Modesto Anarcho, is angry! Gibbs is the husband of the President of SCAP, a local non-profit which funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax-payer money into his own pockets and into the hands of local elites and developers. But Joe has come under hard times! His home in Riverbank was recently raided by the FBI in relation to the scandal. Gibbs is also on house arrest for the hit-and-run killing of a Latino man after an argument over loud music. Gibbs is currently trying to have the trial moved to another county, and is locked down in his home where he continued to work for SCAP until recently. Gibbs wrote to us here at Modesto Anarcho demanding that we take down our article Government Sponsored Thieves, which talks about his role in the SCAP scandal. He made it clear that should we refuse, we would shortly be hearing from his highly-paid lawyer based in Los Angeles.

Needless to say, we were not impressed. Not long after the email was sent to us, Gibbs' home was raided by the feds. We can only hope that his life continues in such a positive direction.

Flames Up, Officer Down

Gentrification, Eviction, and the Death of James Ferrario

In the early hours of Thursday, April 12th, a Stanislaus County Sheriff, Robert Paris, a Tracy native, as well as Glendon Engert, a Modesto locksmith who was trying to bounce back after a lay-off, came to Chrysler Drive in North-West Modesto to evict someone from their home. Chrysler Drive is located off of Prescott Ave. in Modesto, nestled just to the north of Briggsmore. The housing units that the tenant, James "Jimmy" Ferrario lived in used to be part of 'Prescott Estates,' a poverty stricken neighborhood, notorious for crime, drugs, and gangs. Jimmy's father had owned the house prior to his death in 2008 but the home had slipped into foreclosure, with eviction proceedings starting on January 24th.

On April 12th however, the sheriff and locksmith were not there to serve papers or ask Jimmy to leave, they were there to evict him from the property. When the drilling started however, Ferrario fired several shots through his closed door, killing both Paris and Engert, the latter who was in the midst of drilling out Ferrario's door. The early morning shooting set in motion an almost 20 hour stand off, in which dozens of residents were removed from their homes by police. Law enforcement from across Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced counties as well as FBI, ATF, and US Marshalls occupied the area in droves, with a large section of Prescott being shut down and access to Chrysler Drive completely blocked. As night fell, police began firing flash bang grenades and tear gas into the home and a fire soon erupted. As Fox 40 reported:

The Sheriff believes [the fire] was started by tear gas that officers had used to try to get the man out. Law enforcement had been monitoring the man's movement. There had been no opportunity for the man to leave, so officers believe that he is dead.

At this time, sheriffs and police claim that the area surrounding the home was evacuated (many people were forced to seek refuge in a nearby church and even spend several nights there). However, a correspondent with Modesto Anarcho who was able to gain access to the scene at Chrysler Avenue and talk with several small groups of people who were only two homes away and between rings of law enforcement that were blocking access to Ferrario's home. Not everyone had been evacuated, either by their own desire or from law enforcement incompetence or inaction. Other families were told to stay in their homes by police and were not allowed to leave. As the fire raged, even with fire department trucks looking on, it became clear that the police were letting the home burn.

The morning after the shooting a charred body was found, presumed to be Ferrario's, although an autopsy report could take weeks.

The killing of police officers almost always means that those suspected of shooting back will die. Furthermore it almost always means increased repression against the neighborhoods and communities from which the killers originate from. Adam Christianson has also used the incident to call for more resources for law enforcement agents stating, *"I am overwhelmingly frustrated that we don't have sufficient resources to protect the community."* The question remains, what will be done with those resources? In an area hit hard by foreclosures and heavy numbers of evictions daily, will residents waiting for the sheriff's knock at the door now face SWAT teams and armored cars?

The killing of Deputy Paris comes at a time when both the Modesto Police and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department is besieged by scandal, investigations, and public resistance to brutality, murder, and corruption. The State always uses the killing of police officers to remind the communities (that like Paris, often they don't live in), just why they should fear and respect the police.

The Gentrification of Prescott Estates

Prescott Estates refers to a highly concentrated group of housing units that existed off of Prescott Ave. and the surrounding area that in 2001-02 was remodeled and turned into Whispering Woods.

The 78 fourplex housing units were constructed and placed on the market in 1970, but by 1974, 80 of the units had become vacant and there were reports of shoddy upkeep, with many residents drifting into foreclosure. In the 70's, 80's, and 90's, government programs fixed up some of the vacant homes, but problems with crime and vacant buildings persisted. The city responded with more street lights in an attempt to curb crime and in 2000, blocked off of Chrysler Drive and turned it into a one-way. Police even put in a sub-station in the area in an effort to drive down crime, but by the early 2000's the city had had enough. City officials began issuing repair notices to units with different problems, and in 2000 a judge appointed a *"receiver...over the complex, following a lawsuit filed by owners unhappy with the Prescott Estates Homeowners Association."* In October 2000, 95 tenants followed with their own suit, not only against the homeowners association, but also against landlords. The city's response: eviction of the tenants through the "unprecedented action of" condemning the units. In March of 2001 the city began seizing the units of tenants and by November 2001 up to 1,700 residents had been evicted from their homes.

By late 2002, Prescott Estates was gone and 'Whispering Woods' opened with 20 fourplex units on the market for rent.

According to the Modesto Bee, this wave of evictions wasn't just successful in kicking out both the criminal and anti-social elements in Prescott Estates but also the families living in poverty caught in the middle as well: it also turned a big profit.

"By consolidating, the owners could coordinate a massive renovation project. They renamed the community Whispering Woods and began renting out remodeled condos to well-screened tenants. Crime rates plunged and community leaders applauded themselves for having alleviated the neighborhood's squalid living conditions. As the Northern San Joaquin Valley's housing market soared, Whispering Woods began selling the renovated condos for hefty profits. Some individual units that had been purchased in 2001 for $15,000, for example, were sold in 2005 for $150,000. Investors who bought entire fourplexes typically paid

more than $500,000 during the peak of the housing boom."

The poor management of properties helped to maintain a healthy environment for anti-social and criminal elements and it generated massive revenues for slumlords who cashed in off of tenants living in poor conditions. As crime flourished however, pressure to close down Prescott Estates grew as close by neighborhoods became enraged at crime spilling into their streets and created a context for the city to condemn and evict tenants. Thus, those living in the area were effectively gentrified from their homes and once again landlords and business owners cashed in. But not all of the old tenants were completely removed by the city. The Modesto Bee:

"To clean up the mess, the RPM Co. of Lodi formed a partnership with a group of Modesto businessmen and acquired about 299 of the condos. One of the few owners who held out, however, was James Henry Ferrario — owner of Unit 1 of 2141 Chrysler Drive, where Thursday's shootings took place. Ferrario had owned and lived in that 810-square-foot condo since about 1972, when it was new. He fought city officials to keep his property, and he continued to live there until his death at age 71 in 2008. Ferrario had three children, a son named James Ferrario and two daughters. At some point, the Ferrario property fell behind on its payments on a $15,000 Bank of America mortgage, which had been taken out in 2003. The property also apparently defaulted on $13,406 owed to the Whispering Woods Community Association. The association foreclosed on the condo last summer, and the bank foreclosed in December. R&T Financial Inc. purchased the condo for $12,988 during the bank's foreclosure auction, and it became the property's legal owner."

Whispering Woods is now a much different place than before - only one road leads into the area, the rest is blocked by gates. Property management is open 7 days a week working on the grounds. From the Bee:

"Garbage cans have to be stored behind privacy fences; parties and drugs are not allowed. Vehicles have to be in working order." In other words, the environment is much more controlled and managed. Police Chief Mike Harden echoed these feelings in an open letter that discussed Prescott Estates turn around by stating that, *"... relentless code enforcement can all lend itself to controlling disorderly behavior in public."*

For cop-politicians like Harden and property managers like those that own Whispering Woods, the key to stopping crime is proper control and repression of the poor - keeping us off the grass and making sure we have a permit for that beer we're drinking. It's also telling that for them, the turning around of the area could only come through the eviction and removal of the people that used to live there, as opposed to stopping the kinds of conditions which give rise to crime in the first place (but of course, that can only come from us ourselves). For them, crime is always a behavioral problem which can only be changed through conditioning using force, repression, and policing. In reality, crime is just the State's word for people acting to meet their own needs where the system has failed them.

Knock, Knock, GTFO

Evictions, the result of either foreclosures or the removal of a renter from a property can often take months. Tenants can fight the eviction in court and hold off the process for a while, but ultimately after a judge signs an 'unlawful detainer' order the tenant then has 5 days to vacate the property. After these 5 days, sheriffs can come and change the locks of a building and remove the tenant; this is known as a lockout. Landlords may also choose

to hire a private eviction service, such as the infamously shady Patriot Evictions Service based in Modesto. Such businesses often use 'illegal lockouts,' in which company goons either harass tenants into leaving or landlords simply change the locks while a tenant is out of the home. In doing so, landlords can get out of months of going to court and allowing the tenant to fight the eviction (as well as often keep their deposit).This kind of activity is not rare and is a fast and easy way for landlords to remove a renter from a property and get someone else into the facility.

According to an article in the Modesto Bee, evictions in Stanislaus County average about 10 per day, and more often than not, involve the physical removal of the occupants.

"[A sheriff] said that when he took over the civil division nearly four years ago, the home would be empty 70 percent to 80 percent of the time when the deputies showed up. But now...the homes are occupied 70 percent of the time."

But while police state that evictions have gone down from an average of over 15 per day to 10, this is due in part to the fact that banks and landlords are hiring private eviction services as opposed to paying sheriffs. Thus, eviction businesses have seen a rise in evictions, both of homeowners and renters.

"[T]he number of evictions conducted by deputies has dropped steadily, from 16 to 19 a day nearly four years ago to nine to 11 today...banks are more likely to carry out evictions and not pay the Sheriff's Department to carry out an eviction. Landlord's Eviction Service owner Bruce Doerksen said his Modesto-based business did 735 residential evictions in 2005, compared with 775 residential evictions last year."

With the worsening economy and the continued housing crisis, evictions through the police have remained high, and more and more, been outsourced to private companies. Also, the numbers of families and individuals which come into contact with the people that are evicting them only continues to rise - people who quite literally have nowhere to go and are in desperate situations when they are physically locked out and evicted. Furthermore, the growth of the eviction industry in the Central Valley has lead to the practice of "illegal lockouts" and the harassment of tenants from landlords in an effort to remove them. Is it any wonder why so many people are at the end of their rope when they come into contact with those that are trying to evict them?

We must also keep in mind the case of Kari Abbey, who in 2010, shot and killed Rita Elias in West-Modesto. Abbey was a Stanislaus County Sheriff at the time who helped evict tenants for her landlord parents. While attempting to evict Elias from her home, Abbey got into an argument with her which ended in her shooting and killing Elias. In the wake of the shooting, Abbey was arrested for having a stockpile of guns, drugs, marijuana plants, and other illegal items at her home, but it was also revealed that she was evicting and harassing tenants of her parents - all while in uniform and sometimes with the help of other law enforcement officers. It is telling the difference in coverage the death or Rita Elias has received when compared to the death of Deputy Paris. Paris is portrayed as a hero and Elias as a scumbag who deserved to be shot by an officer who feared for her life. Who knows how many other tenants are coming into contact with law enforcement who are working directly for landlords outside of the bounds of what the State considers 'legal;' often with lethal results.

The Shape of Evictions to Come?

In 2005, a Ceres police officer was shot and killed by Andres Raya, a Marine returning from Iraq.

In the wake of the shooting, police began targeting the neighborhood where Raya lived, raiding homes without warrants, stopping children at gunpoint, and taking pictures and documentation of many young Chicanos, cataloging them as gang members. While some residents organized themselves and fought back, the point here is that local police and Stanislaus County Sheriffs drastically changed the way in which they interacted with the poor and brown communities that they police in the wake of the shooting. Ceres police also secured new weapons and armory after the shooting, including a tactical bearcat vehicle and bigger guns.

The question remains then, will evictions carried out by both Stanislaus County Sheriffs and private eviction companies become more militarized? Politicians looking to secure votes from 'law and order' citizens will also be happy to throw more money Adam Christianson's way, arming the Sheriff's Department with more officers, more guns, and more equipment. With the recent shooting death of a man in Keyes by a Stanislaus County sheriff on April 16th, the second officer involved shooting death of a civilian in Stanislaus County just that day, what remains clear is that brutality and death dished out from local law enforcement is not going to stop - it will increase.

More Dangerous for Who?

The killing of Deputy Paris has again raised the question of if violence against police is on the rise. According to Copblock.org:

"...the last 25 years, we see that officer deaths have been on a slow trend downward with a few outlier years in both directions. Deaths specifically due to violence directed at an officer have followed the same downward trend as the total number of deaths. Of course the "War on Cops" lie serves an important purpose for the police in the court of public opinion. If the public believes that the police are in more danger than ever they are more likely to excuse all sorts of misbehavior, including excessive force and outright murder. "

Every time an officer beats an individual, the police inevitability invoke "officer safety" as the reason that we should excuse such violence.

But while the deaths of officers on duty has gone down since the 1970's, the numbers of deaths of civilians at the hands of police officers has only gone up. While there exists no exact data on the total number of people killed by law enforcement per year, a recent article on Reason.com explores the issue:

"Ten times more civilians were killed by cops than cops were killed by civilians in 2008, but you won't find that information in [a] New York Times story... From 2003 to 2009, 4,813 people died in relation to an arrest in "all manners of deaths." Each year ranged from 627 (2003) to 745 (2007). Of those, 2,913 (about 6 in 10) were reported as "homicide by law enforcement." Each year ranged from 375 (2004) to 497 (2009). In 2008, law enforcement killed roughly 10 times the number of people during arrests (404) than officers killed (41). Since 2001, at least 500 people have been killed as a result of being tasered by officers in the United States alone."

As Kristian Williams wrote:

Comparing the numbers we see that the police use violence (546,000 times in 2005) nine times as often as they face it (57,546 times that year). An analysis of fatal incidents shows a similar imbalance: During the period 2003-2005, 380 police died on duty. Only 159 of these deaths were homicides, while 221 were the result of accidents. During that same time, 1,095 people were killed by law enforcement officers in the process of arrest. That averages 365 per year, or one a day.

What is very clear is that the number of officers killed while on the job is nowhere near the amount of people that are killed during daily interactions with police, both on the street and in police custody. And, as in every situation, those killed by the police are presented as dangerous criminals and thugs in the media and by the police, while law enforcement officers that die while on the job are portrayed as heroes. Again, Kristian Williams:

"Police funerals, in contrast, are public pageants that the cops can use to silence their critics. They pull politicians into mandatory displays of support, and are dutifully portrayed by the media as memorials of heroism and sacrifice. In either case, the victim is converted into a symbol. But there are important differences: Police shootings are relatively common, but only rarely create public controversy. The victim is usually forgotten, except by those who knew him personally. The cops involved are often treated as heroes and issued commendations."

James Ferrario

The police, however, do defend their right to kill. And, in particular, they use those specific instances when they are attacked to justify their much more general reliance on force. By this account, people who attack the police are criminals, and the police need to defend themselves. And the people the police attack are also criminals — and therefore, potential attackers. Thus, the cops represent their own violence as being always defensive. The facts, however, show that police use violence far more often than it is used against them, at higher levels, and with more fatal consequences.

Policing is based on violence. Through the media and also the State that it serves, violence against the police is always portrayed as criminal and insane. At the same time, the very real, ever powerful, and ever growing violence of the police is always portrayed as justified and heroic. One of our tasks, in every situation and in every struggle, is to show that the government always has a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence and our resistance to that violence is necessary. Resistance is also something that will always happen when people are pushed to the edge; people will respond, they will hit back, but the question now, as always is: how can we organize ourselves so that we actually win?

Walking along Prescott Ave. on April 12th and seeing several full blocks of police all with full combat weapons and armed vehicles, as scores of residents are displaced and taken from their homes, holed up on the floor of a nearby church, we can see the ever real social war that is playing itself out in this society. More and more people are being pushed to the edge; driven by lack of access to basic necessities and an inability to make ends meet. At the same time, the government cranks up repression, dishes out more evictions, and the police become more brutal than ever. Until we begin to fight back against this system of misery and exploitation, only more people will be driven to choose between finally saying enough is enough, or being burned alive.

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